

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Zha, et al.)	Group Art Unit Unknown
)	
Appl. No.	:	Unknown)	
)	
Filed	:	Herewith)	
)	
For	:	SCOURING METHOD)	
)	
Examiner	:	Unknown)	
)	

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.102 and M.P.E.P. § 708.02(II), Applicants hereby petition to make the above-captioned application (the "Application") special in order to advance its examination due to actual infringement of its claims.

Applicants' attorney contends and alleges in the accompanying ATTORNEY'S DECLARATION SUPPORTING PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL that:

1. There is an infringing method that is in use;
2. A rigid comparison of the alleged infringing method with the claims of the Application has been made;
3. In the Applicants' Attorney's opinion, at least some of the claims of the Application are unquestionably infringed;
4. A careful and thorough search of the prior art has been made, and Applicants' Attorney has a good knowledge of the pertinent prior art.

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Applicants submit herewith an Information Disclosure Statement including one copy of each of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims of the Application.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the requirements under M.P.E.P. § 708.02(II) to make the Application special have been satisfied and requests that this Petition be granted.

A check for fees in the amount of \$1,354.00 is enclosed, of which \$130.00 of the total amount is for payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i). Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410. A duplicate copy of this Petition is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 3/19/04

By: 

Rose M. Thiessen
Registration No. 40,202
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(619) 235-8550

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ATTORNEY'S DECLARATION SUPPORTING PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

I, Rose M. Thiessen, declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney of record in connection with the above-captioned application (the "Application").

2. On information and belief, an infringing method (the "Method") is currently in use in the Forest Park Water Treatment Plant (the "Plant") located in Chalfont, Pennsylvania. The Method is directed to removing accumulated solids from the outer surfaces of porous hollow fiber membranes employed in the Plant for water filtration. The Method was first observed in use by an employee of USFilter Memcor Products in February 2004. An employee of USFilter Memcor Products confirmed with an employee of the Plant that the Method is performed as part of the routine operation of the Plant, and that the method is currently in use.

3. I have made a rigid comparison of the Method with the claims of the Application.


4. In my opinion, at least some of the claims of the Application are unquestionably infringed.

5. A careful and thorough search of the prior art has been made, and I have a good knowledge of the pertinent prior art.

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6. I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made upon information and belief are believed to be true, and, further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful, false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, and that willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the Application, or any patent issuing therefrom.

Dated: 3/19/04

By: 
Rose M. Thiessen

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